

Water for new middle school still an issue

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by MARIAN
MCMAHON

MADISON VILLAGE -

The dispute between Madison Village and the Lake County Department of Utilities over the right to provide water to the new middle school under construction continues.

"There is still a question and/or conflict brought to NOACA and the village of Madison by the Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU)," said Councilman John Hamercheck at the Dec. 5 meeting, during his Utility Committee report. "The issue at hand relates to two parcels of property fronting Middle Ridge Road at the site of the middle school (to be built)."

He said the Utility Committee was recommending the parcels, whichever district they are assigned, be covered by a previous memorandum of understanding between the village and LCDU.

The village council, at previous meetings, had expressed the hope the Madison Local School District would support the village in its efforts to be permitted to provide water to the new middle school.

"At this time, the schools appear to be unable or unwilling to render aid for the village's efforts to save the school costs and prevent unnecessary delay," Hamercheck said, adding the school felt the issue was between the village and the county.

He said the committee felt if there were "unforeseen difficulties" which came up because of LCDU's "demands" it should be up to the school board to handle them.

In other business:

- Council suspended the three readings and passed an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 33-2011 due to clerical error and declaring an emergency.

- Moritz explained she thought she had the final invoice (\$66,606.67) for Water Tower Drive repairs and improvements to assess, but did not, so the ordinance needed to be replaced with a new one with the correct amount.

- Council suspended the three readings and passed a replacement ordinance levying special assessments for the repair, sealing, chipping, surface coating, striping, improvements to the valve boxes and such other related improvements, all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, for the Water Tower Drive Roadway from its intersection with state Route 528 to its terminus, and declaring an emergency.

- Moritz said the final invoice from Ronyak Paving to assess to the property owners on Water Tower Drive is

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\$64,961.45.

It had previously been thought it might be possible to get the assessments placed on the tax rolls right away, but the fiscal officer, Tony Long, spoke with the auditor and found it would not be possible.

Council suspended the readings and passed an ordinance repealing Section 2 of Ordinance No. 13-1996 and declaring an emergency. This ordinance had to do with the Madison Senior Center property.

"When Lake County Department of Utilities, in servicing sewer for the Senior Center, there was an ordinance to permit Lake County to service the Senior Center with sewer," Moritz said. "Section 2 of 13-1996 said that the county has the right to change the sewer boundaries or its name at any time without further input of this council..."

She said that section was interpreted by LCDU to mean it could make any changes it wished to the sewer district so she recommended council repeal it.

Moritz said Law Director Joe Szeman did not believe that was the intent of the section, so agreed the section should be repealed prior to asking NOACA to amend the sewer district Dec. 9.

Council approved a purchase order for \$11,500 to Northeastern Communication for outfitting a 2011 Crown Victoria as a new police vehicle.

"The \$11,500 isn't going to be specifically to Northeastern," Police Chief Dawn Shannon said. "I don't foresee that I'm going to need all that, but I didn't want to

come back and say, 'I asked for this, but now I need this.'"

One deletion will be the cage. She found the cage from a car being retired will fit the new vehicle. Madison Township also just advised it had a rear vinyl seat it could trade to the Village for the cloth seat in the new car, so that will not need to be ordered. (The vinyl is preferred for easier cleanup.)

"I'm not looking to spend money on something brand new because they are no longer making Crown Vics," Shannon said.

The Opticom, which controls traffic signals for emergency vehicles, will not be purchased as part of the light bar since she has one which can be mounted separately. It had been damaged when water entered the seal, but Opticom is replacing it under warranty.

Council approved a second purchase order for \$2,400 to A Louis Supply for a new sewer plant pump motor.

Moritz said she felt they should purchase a new pump immediately because of recent high water flows. The old motor will be sent to be looked at for repair. If the cost is reasonable, it will be fixed and kept as a spare in case another pump goes bad.

Councilman Don Bartlett reported on the Stormwater Management Watershed Action Plan.

"Certainly this will help the community to address longstanding resource issues and the watershed," he said. "The stakeholders and technical advisers will work together ... to address issues on a watershed scale."

Having such an area-wide

plan will help the communities involved to qualify for grants.

There is a four-year planning grant available which would help to improve water quality for the Arcola Creek watershed. There is also a three-year implementation grant which would be possible to obtain.

"There are five areas to be addressed," Bartlett said. "Those are water quality, water quantity, management, resource issues and recreation."

There were three subgroups created within the larger group. The stormwater group will work on flooding, planning and channel maintenance. The resource group will focus on nursery nutrients, water use, septic

salt and riparian setbacks. The third group will focus on education such as advancing better public understanding of the watershed and seek grants to help with that mission.

Councilman Ken Takacs asked if the recent rains had caused problems.

Moritz said the rain, although steady, had not been heavy in a short time, so the system was able to handle it.

Councilman Duane Frager read a letter of thanks from the Rec Board for the village's donation and noted some things the MJRD was able to accomplish.

Shannon asked the public to remember to tell their snow plow contractors to apply for a permit at the village hall. She said there is no

cost; the police would just verify they are properly licensed and insured. They would also be added to a list of contractors, none of whom would be endorsed by the police, to be given to resi-

dents who ask for referrals. Council discussed what might be the least expensive way to divest itself of a .03-acre parcel of land it owns on Main Street by Behm Funeral Home.